Farmhouse 451

Chapter 451: Discussing Family Wealth

Huang Xiangwen said viciously, "So what if those things were earned by your parents? Back then, our family hadn't separated, so no matter how much was earned, it all belonged to the head of the Gu Family. Your parents are dead, and as a daughter, those things naturally belong to your grandparents. Now that your grandparents are dead, and that damned Gu Lao San has been put in jail, your second uncle is their only son left, so of course these things should be inherited by the son."

Yes, that's right!

After hearing what Huang Xiangwen said, Gu Lao Er also became puffed up with arrogance.

Gu Lao San was a self-made disaster and deserved what he got. Before, Gu Lao Er had still been thinking about how to get their father to give him a larger share, never expecting Gu Lao San to do such a thing, truly deserving death.

Now it was good; Gu Lao San's share had disappeared completely and it was all his own.

However, ever since Gu Youyou's parents had passed away, they had been scheming over these things, never giving a thought to Gu Youyou.

Gu Youyou laughed nonchalantly, saying, "What if you went to jail too? The fact that you sold me to a human trafficker is true, and I suppose you are well aware that if I report it, you would have to go to prison."

Gu Lao Er and Huang Xiangwen's faces drastically changed as Gu Erbao glared at Gu Youyou with a vicious look in his eyes, nearly rushing out if Gu Dabao hadn't been holding him back.

Gu Youyou only glanced at them indifferently, not taking it to heart.

Gu Youyou's words still lingered in their ears like a venomous snake's hiss, soft yet striking each nerve.

"I've visited third uncle, and he says he misses you very much. He's staying in a rather spacious cell at the very back, if second uncle and second aunt would keep him company, he'd surely be both shocked and delighted. Second uncle, you're not the only living son of the grandparents; third uncle is still waiting for you."

Gu Youyou spoke serenely, calm and at ease. From a distance, if you did not hear the words she was saying, you might even think she was in a good mood, discussing the weather.

Gu Lao Er and Huang Xiangwen were panicky and burning with rage.

Why didn't that useless Gu Lao San manage to sell her off successfully all those years ago, allowing her to come back?

She really wouldn't let people live in peace.

Moments later, Huang Xiangwen started laughing again, her voice dripping with smugness, "What nonsense are you talking about? You might as well give up on these things. Haha, even if your second uncle and I were both thrown into prison, so what? When there are grandsons, there has never been a case of property being passed to a married granddaughter. If we go to prison, these things will be Dabao and Erbao's.

Humph, we were deceived by Gu Lao San into making a mistake; as long as we admit our guilt with a good attitude, at most we'll be detained for a year and then we can come back. By then, all these things will still be ours, haha, Gu Youyou, don't even dream of getting anything from the Gu Family; who told you that you're not a son but a daughter?"

From the direction of the window, that woman too began to smile faintly.

She really feared that the suddenly-emerged Gu Youyou would take away all of the Gu Family's possessions, leaving her and her son to face the bitter winds.

In the meantime, Gu Youyou maintained her faint smile, as if she had anticipated they would say something like this.

She chuckled lightly, "You make some sense, but it seems you've miscalculated."

"Miscalculated?" Seeing Gu Youyou's composed expression, they were hesitant to let their guard down, eyeing her warily.

The girl was full of tricks and could not be taken lightly.

Gu Youyou's smile deepened as she said, "Yes, since second uncle and third uncle have both been thrown into prison, losing the chance to inherit Gu Family's real estate, shouldn't the possessions be divided equally among the cousins?"

Chapter 452: The Rat Poison Added to the Medicine Years Ago

"Of course!" Gu Lao Er said, baring his teeth in a grin.

Suddenly, Huang Xiangwen elbowed him, saying, "What nonsense are you spouting?"

"Is it not true?" Gu Lao Er did not understand.

As if struck by a realization, he incredulously turned to look at Gu Youyou.

"Oh... Ah!" He enlightenedly exclaimed, "You... I was wondering why you were going on and on about it; it turns out it is for Erya and Sanya's share of the stuff."

"Alas..." Gu Lao Er sighed deeply, speaking to Gu Youyou in a sorrowful tone: "Why must you do this? The third brother actually killed your older brother and sister-in-law, and then sold you, even causing our father's death. They deserved such retribution. After the third brother was taken away by the government officials, I also drove them out. That was a matter that delighted everyone, and even the village head agreed with what I did."

He indeed knew how to find a righteous excuse for his own selfishness and ruthless cruelty.

She truly did want to fight for fairness for Erya and Sanya, but seeing Gu Lao Er's and Huang Xiangwen's unawareness of their wrongdoing and lack of remorse, she felt giving them fairness would be grossly unfair to little Gu Youyou.

As for the Gu Family's mansion and properties, she really wasn't interested, but her indifference was one thing, and letting Gu Lao Er's family take advantage for nothing was another matter altogether.

Then there's the woman who misused her power and killed her grandmother; she would deal with each and every one of them.

Gu Youyou clapped her hands, sitting on the stone bench in the courtyard, and said hauntingly, "Alright, then I'll go back and discuss with Zijin about him marrying into our family. If he marries into our family, then I wouldn't be considered a daughter married off, right?"

Gu Lao Er and Huang Xiangwen: "..."

"Anyway, he's as orphaned as I am. Marrying into the Gu Family, he could get such a fine house and so much property; it's surely better than hunting, I believe he would be very willing."

Gu Lao Er's face darkened with anger as he said furiously, "Are you hell-bent on not letting our family have peace? Will you only be satisfied when this leads to the family's ruin and everyone's death?"

Gu Youyou replied coolly, "It seems to me that it has never been I who has caused unrest in the Gu Family. I am nothing but a lone girl, haven't you bullied me enough?"

Gu Youyou's cold gaze shifted onto Huang Xiangwen and said, "Auntie, need I remind you, what exactly did you add to the medicine I drank on my wedding day?"

"You... What do you know? Impossible, how could you know that." Upon hearing this, Huang Xiangwen's face was stricken with horror.

Gu Youyou, calm and composed, then asked Gu Lao Er, "Shall I repeat the conversation you two had that night?"

She heard their conversation?

Gu Lao Er and his wife could no longer put on airs and looked at Gu Youyou with shock and fear.

Gu Dabao and the other two wore strange expressions and asked, "Father, Mother, what have you done?"

Gu Youyou, expressionless, simply said, "It’s not something major. Uncle and Auntie’s hearts are just as black as Uncle Three’s were. They couldn’t bear to part with my dowry, so they added a bit more rat poison to the medicine they gave me, that’s all."

"What? Father, Mother..."

Gu Dabao and Gu Erbao looked in disbelief at Gu Lao Er and Huang Xiangwen, while Sanya appeared confused, looking left and right, not knowing what to make of the situation.

"Did you really do that?" Gu Dabao asked anxiously.

Gu Lao Er and his wife, astounded that Gu Youyou knew about this matter, and faced with the interrogation from Gu Dabao, were overcome with guilt and could only stare fixedly at Gu Youyou, not daring to meet the disappointed eyes of their children.

Gu Youyou calmly stated, "So when you despise Uncle Three and look down upon Erya and Sanya, don’t forget you are brothers and sisters, and you are actually the same as them. And Gu Wen and Gu Wu are pretty much the same; one killed his older brother and sister-in-law, while the other almost poisoned his own niece. The only difference is that one succeeded, and the other did not."

Chapter 453: Visit Home

From shock and disbelief to shame, various emotions were evident on Dabao and Erbao’s faces, while Sanya simply stared blankly at her parents and siblings.

If it weren’t for hearing Qin Changlin speak, she wouldn’t have known that the siblings who once lived together in a large courtyard had become enemies.

After leaving the Gu Family with Erya and Gu Sanbao, Meng Qiuju was scorned by the villagers. If outsiders who were unaware of the circumstances that was one thing, but couldn’t they understand that children are innocent? The misdeeds were committed by Gu Wu, and they weren’t related to anyone else.

Forcing people into desperation—it all boiled down to interests in the end.

"So, you’ve come back dead set on driving our family out?" Huang Xiangwen looked at Gu Youyou with resentful eyes.

Gu Youyou was unmoved, replying coldly, "If I were you, I would go to the Governor’s Office and turn myself in sooner rather than argue with me."

Gu Wu glared at Gu Youyou with hatred and said, "Do you really intend to send me to the Governor’s Office?"

"If you don’t go and confess, you can try it out," Gu Youyou said impatiently, glaring back at Gu Wu.

She said coldly, "You have one day to think about this. By tomorrow noon, I hope to see a satisfactory outcome."

...

The thatched cottage they previously lived in had changed greatly, encircled by a fence that significantly enlarged the yard.

The vegetable garden in the courtyard was divided in half, one side planted with vegetables, and the other with various medicinal herbs left by Gu Youyou.

Jin Zijin and Shunzi stood in a corner of the courtyard, speaking in low voices, with Shunzi nodding from time to time.

Gu Sanbao, only eleven years old, sat on a small stool, chopping wood with a firewood knife, which was difficult for him due to his young age, often taking a while to cut through a piece of wood.

Smoke was billowing from the house, someone was cooking—it must have been Erya.

Seeing Gu Youyou arrive, Shunzi called out to his big sister from a distance, clearly happy.

Gu Youyou approached with a smile and a gentle nod.

"Shunzi, have you been well lately?"

He used to call her Sister Youyou, but since his engagement with Erya, he had started calling her big sister following Erya's lead.

Shunzi, still looking simple and honest, scratched his head and said with a laugh, "Big sister, don't worry, we are all fine. Thanks to the house and vegetable garden you and brother-in-law left us, or else we'd be living in a cave and eating wild vegetables."

Gu Sanbao put down his firewood knife, walked a few steps towards Gu Youyou, and then stopped. When Gu Youyou looked at him, he awkwardly averted his eyes, not knowing where to put his hands and feet.

"Gu Sanbao!" Gu Youyou called him softly.

The child was different from before. Previously, both Gu old third and Meng Qiuju doted on him and didn't make him work. Before leaving the Gu Family, the only task he had performed was perhaps herding cattle.

But now, he could chop wood, albeit not very well.

"Big sister," Gu Sanbao's cheeks turned red and he called out in an extremely soft voice.

Inside the house, a thin figure hurried out, her hands and face somewhat smudged with black soot—it was Erya, who was still inside cooking.

"Big sister..." she called out loudly, sounding urgent and flustered.

"Erya, it’s me," Gu Youyou said softly, with a light chuckle.

Erya’s hair was done in the common style for women, and she had lost much weight, her complexion pallid. Moreover... when Gu Youyou saw Erya’s stomach slightly bulging beneath the loose cotton clothes, she appeared to be about five or six months pregnant.

"Big sister..." Erya’s tears fell swiftly, and she quickly ran up to Gu Youyou, wanting to embrace her, but seeing herself covered in soot, she ultimately refrained.

Gu Youyou smiled and just held her hand, gently patting the back of it, saying, "A pregnant woman shouldn’t get too emotional. Don’t cry."

Chapter 454: He Arranged It

"They say one shouldn’t cry, yet she couldn’t help but burst into loud, uncontrollable sobs."

"Shunzi came over, gently consoling her, ’Big Sister said you can’t get too agitated, you mustn’t cry.’"

After crying for a good while, she finally nodded her head and gradually stopped.

"Big Sister, everyone says that my dad caused the death of my uncle and aunt. I thought you would hate me to death after finding out, but it turned out you’ve been looking after us all along. If it weren’t for you, I might have followed mother to Qingshui River and not be alive today."

In the past year or so, Jin Zijin had been corresponding with Qin Changlin, looking after the two siblings on behalf of Gu Youyou.

Shunzi also said, "Yeah, if it weren’t for you guys, we wouldn’t even know where we’d be right now."

Gu Youyou glanced at the neatly tidied yard and smiled, "We didn't really help much. You did all of this by yourself. Shunzi, it's been you who's been taking care of our vegetable garden and medicine field all along."

"Heh heh!" Shunzi, not good with words, just gave a simple, honest laugh and scratched his head.

Sanbao still stood timidly off to the side. Gu Youyou gestured for him to come over, and hesitantly, he walked over and they entered the house together.

Shunzi was a diligent and capable individual. Once they began treating this place as their home, they expanded the house and added an extra room in the back.

It was rather fateful – the house was originally built by Shunzi and Jin Zijin. Shunzi, considering for Jin Zijin, said that they would have children in the future and must build an additional room.

Jin Zijin was very clear in his heart whether he and Gu Youyou would have children or not, so he stubbornly refused to build it.

Shunzi kept this in mind and prepared the stakes for another room, planning to build it once Gu Youyou got pregnant. However, he never expected that he himself would move in and make use of it.

They gathered around for a meal and, unexpectedly, there were fish on the table. Although it wasn't as delicious as the ones Gu Youyou made, at least it wasn't fishy.

They did not mention those distressing issues, all the way until the meal was over.

Gu Youyou stood up, patted Erya's shoulder, and said, "Don't worry, Big Sister will seek justice for you."

"Big Sister!" Erya, however, hung her head and said hesitantly, "There's no need. After all, we've gotten used to it. And indeed, my dad did do that thing. I was by grandfather's side the whole day." She glanced at Shunzi and added, "It's just that Shunzi also has to endure being looked down upon because of us."

"Why are you bringing this up again? Didn’t we agree not to talk about these things!" said Shunzi.

Gu Youyou smiled and replied, "Shunzi is a man of warmth and loyalty. If you keep bringing up these matters, it would be a disservice to his kindness. Besides... they’re not worth it."

Erya lifted her head, looking at Gu Youyou with confusion. "What?"

Gu Youyou just smiled and said, "You’ll know tomorrow."

That afternoon, Gu Youyou and Jin Zijin returned to Qingshui Town. By the time they finished dinner, night had already fallen.

They had grown accustomed to huddling together in the dark, lying on the bed and talking about things, and today was no exception.

"Zijin, thank you for the past year, you’ve managed everything so well," she said.

But Jin Zijin replied, "I was only following your wishes. Why thank me?"

"My wishes?" Gu Youyou was slightly taken aback.

She was completely unaware of the happenings in Qingshui Town for the entire year.

Jin Zijin smiled and said, "Do you remember I asked you some questions before? I once asked you if one person had a grudge against another person’s parents, does it mean she holds a grudge against that person too?"

"Huh?" Gu Youyou felt that his question sounded familiar.

Chapter 455: Preparing to Expose Lei Qianqian

"Your answer is that everyone should be responsible for their own actions, and an endless cycle of revenge will never resolve the conflict. Since the enemy has already met their retribution, we certainly shouldn't continue to involve their family. Otherwise, the hatred will pass down through generations without end!"

"This..." Gu Youyou stiffened.

She and Jin Zijin seemed to have had such a conversation, but she thought his question was about his own affairs with Jin Ziyuan.

"So this is your own belief!" Jin Zijin said righteously.

Gu Youyou: "..." Okay then.

"Do you think they will turn themselves in?"

"They will!" Jin Zijin said.

"What makes you so sure?" Gu Youyou asked.

"Because of the Lin Family, they're not afraid of Gu Youyou, they're afraid that Gu Youyou, in a moment of desperation, might bring the Lin Family into this, and New Year's is coming too."

"Heh..." Gu Youyou suddenly laughed.

Yes, New Year's is coming again, and the Lin Family will have visitors again.

...

Early in the morning, Jin Zijin and Gu Youyou went to buy incense and offerings to worship at the graves of Gu Feng and the elder Mrs. Huang.

Both their graves were built together, and it was no longer clear which came first; both were overgrown with weeds.

"Zijin, I want to speak alone with Grandpa and Grandma for a while."

Jin Zijin nodded and withdrew to the hollow below.

Gu Youyou burned joss paper and spoke softly.

"Grandpa, will you be mad at me for not visiting you sooner? Heh, I know you were always partial to me, and you surely won't be. You only wished for me to live well. Don't worry, I'm doing very well. My return this time, first, is to offer you incense for peace, and second, I plan to send Uncle into prison as well. I don't know if you'd blame me."

Unable to receive a response, Gu Youyou could only give a bitter smile.

Looking at the grave next to her, Gu Youyou said, "Grandma, I know you didn't like me, but I'll still avenge you."

That was the only sentence she said to her.

As Jin Zijin had predicted, the next day Gu Youyou's second uncle indeed went to confess, taking on all the responsibility very publicly.

He voluntarily admitted to the local authority that he had planned to sell Gu Youyou off, and then two men from the village took him bound to the Governor's Office.

But he took all the blame alone, quickly exonerating Huang Xiangwen.

That was good in a way; it wouldn't be fun without Huang Xiangwen.

Gu Youyou and Jin Zijin swaggered to the Gu Family home, and Huang Xiangwen invited them inside, but she refused, simply sitting down in the courtyard of the Gu Family house instead.

The villagers were clinging to the wall outside the Gu Family courtyard, peering in through the cracks with one eye shut.

"What are they going to do?"

"Do you think Youyou was really taken by a human trafficker?"

"Of course not. Didn't you hear what Shunzi said? She's just been back to her old home with Jin Zijin for over a year, and she often wrote letters asking the doctor at Jisheng Hall to take care of Shunzi and Erya."

"Ah, then why didn't they come back sooner? It's been so long before they returned."

"Who knows, it's other people's business."

Huang Xiangwen watched the two sitting in the courtyard with trembling fear.

Jin Zijin seemed increasingly inscrutable. Looking at the man before her, she couldn't reconcile him with the scruffy hunter of the past.

Knowing that Gu Youyou was going to make trouble today, Huang Xiangwen had discussed with Gu Youyou's second uncle the day before sending the children to her parental home first.

Howbeit, as Gu Dabao was already grown, he wasn't easily persuaded and refused to go. With Dabao unwilling to leave, Lei Qianqian, too, stayed, taking the children with her, so in the end only Erbao and Sanya were sent away.

In the courtyard, Huang Xiangwen stood opposite Gu Youyou and Jin Zijin. A little further back stood Gu Dabao, with a pained expression.

Chapter 456: The Person with No Bottom Line

Behind him, by the door, stood Lei Qianqian, her child occasionally grabbing at Lei Qianqian’s hair.

The atmosphere had just turned right.

"Alright then, since my second uncle went ahead and confessed his crimes forthrightly, let’s leave you, his accomplice, out of this," he said.

With those words, Huang Xiangwen breathed a sigh of relief.

She looked towards Jin Zijin, who was standing beside Gu Youyou, and chuckled awkwardly, "Then... does Hunter Jin still plan to marry into our family?"

Marry into the family? Jin Zijin looked at Gu Youyou with surprise.

Gu Youyou mentally cursed, realizing she had forgotten to tell Jin Zijin about this.

She glared at Jin Zijin and then, without changing her expression, turned to Huang Xiangwen and said, "What difference does it make if he marries in or not? What do you plan to do about it?"

"Me...?" Huang Xiangwen was at a loss for words.

How could a mere woman like her make such decisions? What if she decided now, and then Dabao’s father came back and was dissatisfied—what then?

So she turned to Gu Dabao.

"Dabao, with your father not here, you’re the only one who can make decisions for our family now," she said.

Gu Youyou might have been mistaken, but Dabao seemed to have a cold look in his eyes when he glanced at Huang Xiangwen.

He said indifferently, "Whether my brother-in-law marries into the family or not, this house should righty be managed by my elder sister. Haven't we already agreed that the house and fields were all earned by my uncle and aunt for the family?"

Upon hearing this, Huang Xiangwen's face changed dramatically, and she glared at Gu Dabao. She hadn't yet managed to retort when Lei Qianqian, who was holding a child at the door, already burst out, berating Gu Dabao.

"Gu Dabao, what are you talking about? Giving all the family assets to Gu Youyou for management—are you out of your mind? If the house and fields all go to Gu Youyou, where will we live? What will we eat? Bin Bao still needs to go to school. Without these things, where will we get the silver to pay for his education?

"Don't you forget, our grandfather made it clear when he was alive that if I gave birth to a son, the family would spare no expense to send him to private school. Our family's Bin Bao will be a magistrate one day, so we have nothing to fear from Gu Youyou!"

This was the second direct encounter Gu Youyou had with Lei Qianqian. To her surprise, she realized Lei Qianqian was quite a force to be reckoned with, brazenly dominating the Gu household's territory while holding her lover's child and confidently making her point. She had clearly underestimated just how low some people could go!

Perhaps because it was his first encounter with such shameless people, Jin Zijin's expression turned icy.

All he said coldly was, "Dear Aunt, it seems like you're intending to let an outsider take charge, huh?"

"Outsider? I am Dabao's wife, married to him through a proper wedding ceremony!" Lei Qianqian yelled back at Jin Zijin.

But upon seeing the cold expression on Jin Zijin’s face, she swallowed the words she was about to say next.

She had heard about Gu Youyou, but she never expected that a woman on her deathbed, merely married off to ward off bad luck, would end up with such an outstanding man.

He might not have a large tiled house or fields, but with his charm and demeanor, he was far superior to all the men in Lotus Village.

No, not just Lotus Village—the men from the neighboring towns couldn’t outshine the man before her either.

What made Gu Youyou so lucky to have him?

"Qianqian, take Bin Bao inside," Gu Dabao said.

Lei Qianqian took a look at Gu Dabao and then glanced at Jin Zijin and Gu Youyou. She let out a faint smile and, far from going inside, advanced forward and sat opposite Jin Zijin.

In the courtyard was a square stone table, accompanied by four stone chairs, positioned face to face.

Gu Youyou watched Lei Qianqian with a faint smile, saying nothing.

It would be her turn to deal with her soon, as she expected the right people to arrive any minute now.

"Qianqian!" Gu Dabao grew somewhat angry and came over to pull at Lei Qianqian’s arm.

Chapter 457: Auntie, You Must Be Able to Withstand the Shock

Lei Qianqian shook off Gu Dabao’s arm and said, "Aren’t we supposed to be splitting the family assets? Am I supposed to just watch you squander everything?"

Huang Xiangwen rushed over and pushed Gu Dabao aside, declaring, "Qianqian is right. Since you're here to snatch the property, what else is there to say? If they come as a family, we naturally form a united front as well. Besides, we're fighting over these things for Bin Bao, and Bin Bao must be here."

It was then that Gu Youyou looked over at the child Lei Qianqian had run off with.

The child was very calm, but that look in their eyes... seemed somewhat off.

"Mom, Qianqian!" Gu Dabao said helplessly.

Gu Youyou really didn't want to push Gu Dabao, this honest child, but what could she do? He had Huang Xiangwen for a mother and had married Lei Qianqian as his wife. His weakness would only do him harm. There are some things he must face.

Gu Youyou spoke solemnly, "Dabao, you should sit too. Let's discuss the division of the family assets calmly."

Gu Dabao looked at Gu Youyou with guilt, but ultimately didn't sit down; instead, he stood between Lei Qianqian and Huang Xiangwen.

Huang Xiangwen had no reservations about sitting down, facing Gu Youyou squarely.

"Since Dabao is now in charge of the household, I will not stand on ceremony. From now on, the Gu Family's assets will be distributed by me, Gu Youyou. After our family's affairs are settled, we will invite the local official over."

"You dare!" Huang Xiangwen stood up abruptly, slamming the table.

Gu Youyou simply looked over indifferently and said, "Auntie, are you not very clear on whether I dare? I just hope you can bear the blow and not do anything hasty, not like Third Auntie who took her own life."

Huang Xiangwen paused for a moment, then scoffed coldly, "Don’t worry, if you can live well, I surely won’t die before you. It doesn’t matter if you take over the Gu Family assets, or even if the sky falls, as long as my son and daughter are doing well, I’ll never follow the useless Meng Qiuju."

Gu Youyou nodded and smiled, "That’s good to hear!"

"Hmph!"

Gu Youyou gave Jin Zijin a meaningful glance, who then clapped his hands towards the door. After a moment, there was a knocking sound outside.

Huang Xiangwen knew that many people were waiting outside to revel in the Gu Family’s misfortune, and thinking the knock was from the gossipy women, she cursed, "What are you knocking for? No one here is dead."

"I’ll go open the door, it seems like the villagers have something to discuss," Gu Dabao said, heading toward the door.

Huang Xiangwen cursed, "Come back, don’t you dare open it! Are you keen on letting those gossip-mongers have a laugh at our expense? Haven’t we lost enough face already?"

Gu Dabao stopped for a moment, gave Huang Xiangwen a cool look, then turned and continued towards the door.

This time, Gu Youyou could clearly see that Dabao was truly... upset with his mother.

Alas, although Dabao was honest, his heart was in the right place. He had come to understand much truth, and it was time for him to grow up. But not having realized that she had earned her own son’s resentment, Huang Xiangwen was clearly oblivious.

When the door opened, there stood a strange young man. His long hair was tied up, and he wore a blue longshirt that made it clear he wasn’t a farmer from the village but someone from the town.

Gu Dabao was taken aback and asked, "Who are you looking for?"

The young man bowed his hands in greeting and said, "My name is Jing Wen from Anqing Town, and I am here to look for a maiden named Lei Qianqian."

"Qianqian?" Gu Dabao's expression grew stern, and he sized up the man before him. Although he did not know who he was or why he was searching for Lei Qianqian, telling him straight off wouldn't be a wise move.

Chapter 458: Looking for Lei Qianqian

"The house is in chaos now, and I don't want to deal with irrelevant people," he said indifferently. "You've got the wrong place; there's no girl named Lei Qianqian in our family."

The onlooking villagers became discontent, clamoring, "Hey, how can there not be? Dabao, isn't your wife called Lei Qianqian?"

Meanwhile, Lei Qianqian in the courtyard turned deathly pale when she heard this voice, clutching the child so tight that she made the baby wail.

"Hey, Qianqian, what are you doing? Bin Bao is crying."

Huang Xiangwen, feeling distressed, took the child from Lei Qianqian's arms and began walking in circles in the courtyard, trying to soothe him.

She was so focused on Gu Youyou that she didn't bother about what was happening outside.

She was convinced that the person knocking was the gossipy woman from next door.

"Ah, the baby's wet himself, really!"

She hurriedly took the child to the backyard to change his diaper.

Gu Youyou, seeing Lei Qianqian’s reaction, stared at her and burst out laughing.

Lei Qianqian came to her senses, looked at Gu Youyou, and realizing what Youyou’s schadenfreude meant, her eyes filled with venom and resentment.

Jin Zijin placed his hand on Gu Youyou’s, whispering, "We have guests, let’s go out to meet them."

Gu Youyou agreed, "That’s exactly what I had in mind."

"No, don’t!" Lei Qianqian, her face ashen, suddenly stood up, ran over, and blocked the way in front of Gu Youyou and Jin Zijin.

She panicked and couldn’t control her volume. Her shout was loud enough that Jing Wen, the man in the blue shirt outside, heard her. Overjoyed, he loudly called into the courtyard, "Qianqian, are you in there? It’s Jing Wen!"

Gu Dabao sensed trouble and blocked the entrance fiercely, not letting him in.

"There’s no one here you’re looking for, leave now."

"How can there not be? I heard her voice."

The onlookers, sensing drama, began gossiping.

"Who is this guy? What’s his relationship with Lei Qianqian?"

"Isn’t he a relative from her parents’ home? Didn’t you hear him saying he’s from Anqing Town?"

"A relative? Then why is Gu Dabao not letting him in?"

Someone asked, "Dabao, if he’s a relative from Qianqian’s side of the family, why won’t you let him in?"

Gu Dabao was taken aback. Why shouldn’t he let him in?

He didn’t know, just felt instinctively that the man was up to no good and didn’t want to let him in.

But if it were true, as the villagers said, that the man was Qianqian’s relative from her parents’ side, then how could he justify keeping relatives out?

While he was worrying about this, Gu Youyou came out.

"Dabao, let him in; Qianqian’s family... a relative is here," she said.

On the other side, Lei Qianqian had already been immobilized by Jin Zijin, sitting stiffly next to the table.

Dabao stepped aside, and Jing Wen hurriedly rushed in.

Gu Dabao, however, stayed behind to close the door and bar it, keeping all the onlookers out.

"Ah, Qianqian, you really are here. I couldn’t believe it when I heard you were. Jing Wen saw Lei Qianqian and rushed over to hug her without regard for the others present.

Lei Qianqian had been immobilized by Jin Zijin; she couldn’t fight back, and even her expression remained blank and stunned.

But inside, she was seething with hatred towards Gu Youyou and Jin Zijin.

They must have done this. How could they possibly know about her and Jing Wen?

Huang Xiangwen, who had just come back after changing the diaper, was shocked at the sight before her.

Who is this man? Why is he holding her daughter-in-law Qianqian? And why was Qianqian letting him?

Chapter 459: Give My Son Back to Me

Gu Dabao, who had just closed the door and come back, happened to witness this scene. Without a second thought, he grabbed a stick by the door and charged at Jing Wen.

"Let go of my wife!" he yelled furiously.

Jin Zijin and Gu Youyou didn’t stop him, because Jing Wen wasn’t any good either. They had both tricked Dabao terribly; he deserved a good beating.

"Ow, what are you doing? You crude, poor wretch, how could someone like you marry Qianqian?"

The commotion of the beating and yelling finally woke Huang Xiangwen from the other room.

But although she was awake, she was utterly clueless about what was happening.

Looking over at Lei Qianqian, she remained motionless.

Carrying a child, she walked over and asked, "What’s going on here? Who is this man?"

Seeing that enough was enough, Jin Zijin reached out and tapped the back of Lei Qianqian, and she regained her freedom.

"This..." She pointed at the man Gu Dabao was chasing and said, "I don’t know this person at all. He just ran into the courtyard and... he did that to me. But Gu Youyou and the others had done something to me, and I couldn’t move just now."

Wow, even at this point, she was still trying to turn the tables. Gu Youyou really learned something new today.

Lei Qianqian indeed had been unable to move, and Huang Xiangwen had witnessed it. She turned her gaze to Gu Youyou with a fierce look in her eyes.

"What exactly do you want to do? You wanted Dabao's dad to turn himself in, he did; you wanted the Gu Family's property, Dabao agreed to handle that for you, what more do you want now?"

Gu Youyou simply said calmly, "Since Dabao calls me 'big sister' and is so sensible, naturally, I should lend him a hand."

"Help him?" Huang Xiangwen sneered.

Lei Qianqian, standing nearby, grew pale when she heard Gu Youyou's words.

She was not foolish; she could clearly discern the implication behind Gu Youyou's words.

"What nonsense are you talking? If you really wanted to help, you should have helped Dabao kick that guy out," Lei Qianqian roared fiercely.

"Indeed!" Gu Youyou said with a light smile.

Meanwhile, Jin Zijin had gotten up to separate the two fighting men.

With one hand on each, he dragged them over and threw them on the ground.

Gu Dabao had the upper hand and only suffered minor injuries; he quickly got up again.

Jing Wen was worse off, with half his handsome face swollen, multiple bruises on his body, and his leg so sore he couldn't stand, leaving him no choice but to sit on the ground.

Gu Youyou continued, still completely serious, "Seeing how badly he’s hurt, I don’t think he can be beaten any more. Let’s not cause a fatality; better find someone to go to his home and have his family come and take him back."

Lei Qianqian glared at Gu Youyou with resentful eyes, and if Huang Xiangwen couldn’t see what was happening by now, she would really be a fool.

"Wait!" she said.

Getting up again, she placed the child back in Lei Qianqian’s arms and walked over to the man who had been beaten black and blue.

"Who are you? What is your relationship with Lei Qianqian?"

Though Jing Wen was in pain, he couldn’t help but laugh triumphantly.

"What? Didn’t Qianqian tell you?"

"Tell us what?" Huang Xiangwen turned to ask Lei Qianqian.

Lei Qianqian’s face was ashen, her whole body drenched in cold sweat, devoid of her earlier brazenness.

"No, nothing. I don’t know him at all," Lei Qianqian said through clenched teeth.

But Jing Wen wouldn’t have it and roared, "Lei Qianqian, I came all this way to find you and even got beaten up for you, and you say you don’t know me? Fine, fine, if you don’t know me, then give me back my son. Go and recognize whoever you want."

"What did you say?"

"What son?"

Huang Xiangwen and Gu Dabao were both simultaneously shocked.

Gu Youyou looked at them sympathetically, feeling a twinge of guilt towards Gu Dabao.

Chapter 460: How Did He Become Your Son?

This was something she had discovered early on and could have exposed sooner, but for certain reasons, she held her tongue at the time.

Raising another man’s wife and child is an unbearable feeling.

Jing Wen pointed at the child Lei Qianqian was holding and laughed triumphantly, "That’s my son."

Lei Qianqian’s eyes were bloodshot with murderous intent, not towards Jing Wen, but directed at Gu Youyou.

It was all this woman’s fault. She wanted to kill her, just like she had killed Old Madam Huang before.

But Jin Zijin was there. How could he allow her to hurt Gu Youyou even a little bit? With a simple gesture, he made her sit down meekly again.

"You... you’re talking nonsense, I’ll kill you..." Gu Dabao, upon hearing Jing Wen say that, lunged at Jing Wen once more.

This time Gu Dabao was furious, his eyes bloodshot, appearing as if he would tear the man on the ground limb from limb.

But the man on the ground didn’t deserve to die at this moment, and Jin Zijin had to pull Gu Dabao back.

"Let go of me, let me kill him," Gu Dabao raged.

Jin Zijin simply said to him, "Don’t you want to know the truth? Would you rather be deaf and play dumb for the rest of your life?"

Hearing Jin Zijin’s words, he finally calmed down.

He couldn’t play deaf and dumb for a lifetime, yes, he had to figure out what the hell was going on.

He glared fiercely at the unknown man on the ground.

Meanwhile, Huang Xiangwen was stunned, and upon coming to her senses, she stared fiercely at Lei Qianqian.

She too wanted to find out the truth of the matter.

"You better explain to me how my grandson became your son. If you can’t make it clear, I swear with my life I won’t let you leave this house," Huang Xiangwen said fiercely.

Everyone quieted down, and only then could they discuss the serious matter at hand.

Jing Wen said, "Originally, Qianqian was betrothed to me, and many people in Anqing Town knew about it. If you don’t believe me, just ask anybody. But when we were on the verge of discussing marriage, her father, the Scholar, suddenly passed away. She needed to observe three years of mourning for her father, while I still had a sister waiting to be married off. I could wait, but she couldn’t, so my family had no choice but to look for another match for me.

At first, marrying another woman didn’t seem too bad, and I thought that Qianqian and my fate had ended. However, as time passed, I missed Qianqian more and more, and the woman I had at home became increasingly unbearable to look at."

He turned to Lei Qianqian with a look of adoration, "Qianqian, knowing that you haven’t forgotten me made me so happy that night. We both know what happened between us. There is no need for me to say it here, is there? We can talk behind closed doors,"

Obviously, Lei Qianqian couldn’t respond to him. She was so angry she could spit blood.

Gu Dabao stared blankly at the corner of the table, his ears taking in the words, but he couldn’t even lift his head to look at Lei Qianqian or that man connected to her. His mind was utterly blank, unable to grasp any thoughts.

"We’re not interested in your affairs with that lowly woman; talk about the child."

Huang Xiangwen said fiercely.

"Yes, the child," Jing Wen said with a grin, which looked comical on his battered face.

He continued, "This child is naturally mine. Qianqian already had the child before she married into the Gu Family. How could it possibly be yours? Isn’t that right, Qianqian? You wrote to me, and I received it. It’s just that I was away on business at the time, too busy to get away, so I couldn’t come back."